

Semi-Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar now. Date: Sunday November 10. Time: 3 p.m. Place: The synagogue. Event: The semi-annual congregational meeting. Cost: Free! (You must be current on your membership dues pledge to vote.)

Plan to attend this important event. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard and your vote count in the business of your congregation. In addition to President Don Albert's State of the Congregation address and reports by Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Treasurer Betty Kalis, committees will be reporting on their activities, and there will be entertainment and food as well.

The Bylaws Committee will present for the congregation's approval an amendment creating a new standing Personnel Committee, which reads: "The Personnel Committee shall be comprised of no less than 3 and no more than 5 members, one of whom shall be the President, the others, two of whom shall be former officers, being appointed by the President with the approval of the Va'ad.

The meeting promises to be interesting and informative as well as stimulating and enjoyable. All members are urged to attend.

Sanctuary Movement

The topic for the November meeting of the Social Action Committee will be the Sanctuary Movement. Discussions will focus on educating the congregation on this important issue and various possible congregational actions will be considered. If interested, please join us at the Synagogue on Thursday, November 14th at 7 p.m.

Hawaii Trip Tops Raffle List

Aloha! Get out your Hawaiian shirt, sandals and suntan lotion, and dust off your suitcase, just in case you should be so lucky as to win the Grand Prize at this year's Chanukah Raffle. Just imagine a free week in Hawaii for you and the fortunate person you choose to take with you.

If you don't happen to win the Grand Prize, maybe your name will be drawn for a cabin at the Russian River for a week, or a weekend at Wildwood Ranch, or at De Haven Valley Farm, a charming Mendocino Coast resort. Someone will win a night at the faaabulous Meridien Hotel in San Francisco.

Don't ask. That's not all! There will also be another 15 prizes raffled off—dinners and brunches, gift certificates and many other exciting prizes.

So how do you get a chance to be included in this raffle? For a \$2 donation per ticket, or get a bonus ticket and buy a book of 6 for \$10, you will be eligible for any one of the exciting prizes and maybe, you'll be the one basking in that Hawaiian sun and swimming in that delicious water.

So find those books of tickets included in with this newsletter, fill them out, write your check, and sent them back to the Synagogue office. Then request more tickets, sell them to your friends, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and maybe a few strangers even.

SF AIDS Dinner

The SF AIDS Foundation is sponsoring a 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for people with AIDS or ARC at the Valencia Rose. The event features a potluck-style, buffet dinner and entertainment, and is free to people with AIDS, ARC and their loved ones. Cary Norsworthy, Food Bank Coordinator, anticipates that 300-400 people will attend.

Anyone who would like to roast a turkey, make a salad, dessert, etc, or help in some other way should call Cary at 864-4376. Hopefully, many of us can assist in making this joyous event a success.

Rabbi Geller to Speak

This fall's lecture series will begin in November with a provocative lecture by Rabbi Laura Geller on "The Impact of Women's Spirituality on Jewish Ritual." Rabbi Geller is the Director of Hillel at the University of Southern California and has been a leading figure in the Jewish feminist movement. She recently organized a national conference of Jewish women and ritual, held in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Geller is an exciting, dynamic speaker and is known for challenging her audiences to consider alternative approaches in Jewish thought.

Rabbi Geller will be speaking on Sunday, November 24th, at 5 p.m., in the sanctuary. Contribution of \$2 (members) and \$4 (non-members) is requested. Please join us for this important presentation of Sha'ar Zahav's Education Committee.



President's Column

It is the middle of October as I sit down to write my November column for *The Forward*. I am looking at the next few weeks with a great deal of excitement. In the balance of this month there will be a trip to the East Coast and Los Angeles and opportunities to experience shabbat in three different locations.

As I think about shabbat in other places I realize how much I will miss Sha'ar Zahav. I'll miss all of the friendly faces, the kibbitzing after services, Peter's unique oneg announcements and most of all, I will miss our liturgy. The translations of traditional prayers, the new liturgy written by our members and most outstanding—the liturgy's non-sexist orientation. It is the non-sexist nature of our prayers that is most noticeably absent from many other prayerbooks.

Many of you may not realize that all of our prayerbooks were written by the Sha'ar Zahav Liturgy Committee. Some material is adapted and some original, but all is appropriately non-sexist. This is a style which is more and more common in reform synagogues around the country. Sha'ar Zahavniks and members of our sibling congregations should be proud that all of us are at the front of this movement. It is our Congregation's policy to ask guest speakers to be aware of sexist language and observe our guidelines. Sometimes people forget and slip into their older patterns and at these times we should remember that education is an ongoing process for each of us.

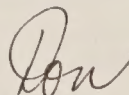
By the time you read this, our delegation will have returned from the UAHC Biennial in Los Angeles. We expect that the highlight of the meeting will be the passage of our AIDS resolution. It is receiving widespread support and has received a special level of support from Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President of UAHC. Rabbi Schindler will endorse the resolution and call for its passage in his opening address to the convention.

In closing, I wish to say a special thank you to two of our members. This year our Education Committee began without a Chair. I asked our Vice President, Leslie Bergson to facilitate meetings until an appropriate volunteer came forward. Paul Cohen, a past President of Sha'ar Zahav, was such a volunteer. Thanks to both of you and your committee members for developing a fine fall semester. I know that it was a great deal of work. Everyone will

anxiously await the beginning of the lecture series and the announcement of the spring program.

This past month our Congregation faced the loss of our member and friend, Rabbi Ben Marcus. Rabbi Ben was an active member with many interests in Sha'ar Zahav. He was also a friend to many of us. I am sure that I speak for the entire Congregation when I express our sadness at his passing and wish his family strength at this difficult time.

Shalom,



Blood Drive a Success

On September 21st, the Women's Havurah held our 4th Annual High Holy Days Blood Drive at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank.

Spirits were high as we gathered; there is always a wonderful, warm feeling of giving, of tzedaka and of mispacha at this event. It feels good to be doing something so tangible for our community.

The turnout was good, and we would like to thank the 22 people who came to donate: Alita Rosenfeld, Smokey Courmier, Rachel Katz, Laurie Davis, Roberta Martine, Morton Landsberg, Susan Unger, Diana Buchbinder, Ruth A., Gail Harris, Bobbie Rich, Dana Vinicoff, Corky Wick, Melissa Levin, Pam Singer, Sen Talley, Sandy Lofschie, Lisa Katz, Shelley Spiro, Ruth Schoenberg, Johanna Johnson and Alison Loebel.

Our thanks also to Rabbi Kahn, Allan Berenstein, Don Albert, Mark Mendelow and all the others who came by to give warm moral support and help serve the delicious homebaked goodies; also thanks to Accent on Flowers, who supplied flowers for our donors for the second year in a row.

Donating blood is not limited to our semi-annual blood drives. Our blood bank account is always in need of donations, particularly in these times. Please donate if you can and encourage your friends to do so at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, Turk and Masonic. Donations should be specified to Sha'ar Zahav, account #1579. The gift will be an important and meaningful one.

—Nancy Meyer, Women's Havurah

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Richard Inlander, Irene Ogus and Alita Rosenfeld (general editorial and production); Laurie Davis (photos); Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by Artspec Imaging Ltd.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

November Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 19 | Leslie Bergson and Nanci Stern |
| 25 | Peter Abinanti and Jeff Riles |

Classified Ads

THIS SYNAGOGUE needs a few caring people to revitalize the Bikkur Cholim committee. No skills involved; just a "gutte neshamah" (good soul). Call Leslie at 552-0256, or leave a message at the synagogue office.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund—

Mr. & Mrs. William Osofsky, to assist in our growth

Richard McFeaters, with holiday greetings

Jonathan Funk, in honor of Alex Ingersoll and the Newsletter Committee

David Stein & Alex Ingersoll, in honor of Sonia, who brings joy to Sue Douglass and Allyce Kimerling

Steve Elman, in memory of Tiela Chalmers' aunt and in honor of Leila Raim & Catherine Wisniewski's anniversary

David Stein, in memory of Fannie Stein, his mother

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Mackler, with holiday greetings

Eric Keitel, in honor of Kipp Leyser's birthday and the marriage of Jeri Yarmeisch & Mark Bernstein

Joyce Amburgey & Cynthia Schorr Ron Lezell, in honor of the Ritual Committee for the beautiful High Holy Day Services

In memory of Morris Charney, Seth Charney's father:
Stephen Walters
Walter Leiss
Sam Thal

In memory of Nathan Hyman, Frank Hyman's father:
Don Albert
David Stein & Alex Ingersoll
Ron Lezell
David Gass
Steve Elman
Walter Leiss
Francine Stein & Samuel Kasoff
Sam Thal

In memory of Albert Stein, David Stein's father:
Bob Goldware & Jay Feinstein
David Gass
Leslie Bergson
Allan Gold
Walter Leiss
Ron Lezell
Sam Thal

In memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus:
Ron Lezell
Stephen Walters
Sam Thal

An Evening of Entertainment at Cafe Latke

How can we create an even bigger and better success than last year's Chanukah Party? Well, the committee is already planning to do just that!

Our new, improved Chanukah celebration will be held on Saturday December 7th from 8 p.m. at the San Francisco Medical Society building on Masonic Avenue. Snacks (including our own special deep dish latkes!), refreshments, games, dancing and as a very special treat, we will welcome New York cabaret recording artist Lynn Lavner, who has been musical director of Gay Morning America, and has several recordings released of her songs and comedy routines. Don't miss the surprises this dynamic entertainer has in store for us.

Following our established tradition (of two years) the evening's activities will commence with a Congregational Menorah Lighting Ceremony, so be sure to bring your menorah and candles to the party (the lighting will be promptly at 8:15).

Admission to the party is \$2.00 for members and \$4.00 for non-members (no charge for seniors and children). Included in the price of admission is one raffle ticket.

A very active and enthusiastic committee is working on this function under the leadership of Shirley Liberman. If you are

interested in helping either in the planning or the actual event, call either Shirley (648-5004) or Marilyn at the office (861-6932).



Lynn Lavner

Good luck, good health, sell those tickets and then join us on December 7th when the lucky winners (maybe you) will be drawn (although you don't have to be present to win).

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of September, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

September 6—Steve Elman & Tiela Chalmers sponsored and prepared the Oneg in honor of Rabbi Kahn; Harvey Bartnoff provided flowers in honor of his parents' visit.

September 13—Blanche Blachman & Adrienne Forshay sponsored the Oneg and flowers in honor of their son Benjamin on the evening of his naming.

September 20—Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of all CSZ's past presidents.

September 27—Marion Trentman & Betty Kalis.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Women's Havurah

Hot Tub Havdalah

This only-in-California event, Saturday, November 9th, revives an old tradition by inviting women members and friends to a potluck Havdalah dinner. We will begin at 5:30 at the home of Irene Ogus and Rosalinda del Moral, 330 Collingwood, San Francisco.

Please bring a dish according to your last name:

A-C — salad J-S — dessert
D-I — beverage T-Z — entree

Also bring a towel if you would like to soak in the tub.

For more information call the synagogue office 861-6932 or Irene/Linda 641-1799.

ACCENT ON FLOWERS
4080—24 Street — Near Castro
3327—24 Street — Near Mission
PHONE 824-3233

On Rereading Genesis

This month we read my favorite sections of the Torah. Much as I like them, the narrative passages in Genesis are also perhaps the most confusing in the entire Biblical canon. The Torah reading cycle ended on Simchat Torah with the last chapters of Deuteronomy. Moses' farewell addresses to the Jewish people, and his summation of the Israelite tribes' history resonate over the centuries. The Torah reading cycle begins immediately with the story of creation and the ancient legends about the Garden of Eden, the Tower of Babel, and Noah and the flood. Now, as we enter into the middle of Genesis, the subject of the weekly portion is neither national history nor epic events that affected all of human kind but the family history of Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. The change in focus is reflected in the names of the weekly portions: from *Shoftim* and *Nitzavim*, plurals in Deuteronomy which begin the portions "Judges and officers you shall appoint . . ." and "All of you stand here today . . ." respectively, we go to *Lech lecha* and *Chayei Sarah*; the former begins the instructions to Abraham to move himself from Ur to Canaan and the second simply means "The Biography of Sarah."

I love these stories and look forward to their return each fall. It is nice to read about individuals and families and their problems and triumphs. Still, I am a bit disappointed when I study the accounts of the lives of the founders of our people. Our heroes do not appear to be all that heroic. If heroes are larger than life—the Jewish people's heroes are all too life-size. Jealousy, theft, deceit and family conflict are constant themes. Our ancestor Jacob deceives his father and his brother, Esau. He is rewarded, however, when his own children deceive him and sell his favorite son, Joseph, into slavery. Are these the founders of our people?

The *midrash*, the rabbis' later expansion of the Biblical text is ambivalent about the characters of the patriarchs and matriarchs. Much of the time, the *midrash* defends the apparently offensive acts and finds some worthy purpose underlying the perceived misdeed. The *midrash* is filled with stories extolling the piety, righteousness and virtue of the matriarchs and patriarchs.

At first glance, the midrashic portrayal of these figures is of unblemished heroes.

It would appear that the rabbis were troubled by the good-and-bad portrait found in the plain biblical text and did their best to recast the apparent flaws in a better light. But further reading reveals that the midrashic commentators could not leave well enough alone and embellished the biblical figures' faults as well as their virtues. Where for example was Isaac's mother Sarah during the Akeidah? The biblical text is silent. According to the *midrash*, Abraham lied to Sarah in order to get her permission to take Isaac with him. Sarah anxiously awaited their return, and, according to one midrashic account, when she learned that Isaac had been bound on the altar, she swooned and died! While the biblical account focuses on the relationship between Abraham and God, the *midrash* reminds us of the further human dimensions of his actions.

The biblical and later midrashic accounts of the founders of our people and of Judaism emphasize the human characteristics of our heroes. The faults which the text makes no effort to hide are, I believe, the best evidence for the divinely-inspired authorship of the Torah. If this were a purely human document, wouldn't the result have been the white-washed biographies we read as children?

The excitement and importance of these stories is heightened by the ring of truthfulness in them. Each deals with real people confronting ever-present human problems. Along with the apparent faults and errors is the record of our ancestors' great triumphs: their encounters with God, their founding of a people, their own personal struggles and victories of the spirit. These stories are models of heroism not in some mythical world but in this world, here and now. They are reminders once again of where Judaism is realized—in the realm of our every day lives.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Sermons Available

In response to numerous requests, copies of Rabbi Kahn's High Holy Day sermons are available through the office. If you would like a copy of his Rosh Hashanah sermon "Hineni" and/or his Kol Nidre sermon "AIDS Is Our Earthquake" please contact the office and specify either or both.

November Yahrzeits

- 1 Mayer Baran, Grandfather of Naomi Baran
- 2 (18 Heshvan) Harry Berenstein, Father of Allan Berenstein
- 2 (18 Heshvan) George Israel Moskowitz, Father of Ron Moskowitz
- 5 Bill White, Uncle of Joel Paul
- 5 (21 Heshvan) Mary Goldman, Grandmother of Jonathan Goldman
- 6 Irene Sherwin, Grandmother of Rob Tat
- 7 Anna Gold, Grandmother of Allan Gold
- 7 (23 Heshvan) Grant Wilbur Shank, Father of Tal-Or bar Shank
- 8 Dina Raven, Grandmother of Allyce Kimerling
- 9 Joseph Goldstein, Father of Bill Goldstein
- 9 Myra Weissberger, Grandmother of Joel Paul
- 10 Minna Witkin, Grandmother of Michael Barclay
- 14 Anna Cohen, Grandmother of Jay Cohen
- 15 Leah Saslafsky, Grandmother of Sharyn Saslafsky
- 15 Leatrice Billig, Friend of Robin Leonard and Lee Ryan
- 16 Abe Kaminsky, Grandfather of Jay Cohen
- 20 (7 Kislev) Maurice Osser, Father of Gordon Osser
- 20 Samuel Cronenwalt, Grandfather of Steven Cronenwalt
- 21 Joseph Kupferman, Father of Martin Kupferman
- 23 Nathan Thal, Brother of Sam Thal
- 23 Annabelle Sussman, Grandmother of Marianne Sussman
- 24 Esther Kalis, Mother of Betty Kalis
- 24 (11 Kislev) Ephriam ben Yosef Ha-Cohen, Father of Daniel Chesir
- 25 Fred Weiss, Grandfather of Wendy Weiss
- 28 Alvin Baum Sr., Father of Alvin Baum Jr.
- 30 (17 Kislev) Ben Rudman, Uncle of Richard Crane

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

PROJECT ORIENTED? There are many short-term projects in the synagogue office that could use a volunteer's touch. If you have an hour or so to spare, contact Marilyn Hertzberg 861-6932.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained eight new members in October. A warm welcome to new members:

Mike Abramson
Don Eiten
Jonathan Mesinger
Perry Paker
Mark Reisman
Jeff Shuman
Robert Stern
Paul Wotman

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.



Rosh Hashanah Tashlich ceremony at Fort Point.

Oneg Update

As gays and lesbians and also as members of the Jewish community we are part of the most creative fold in the world. But our onegs, alas, have not always been a reflection of our creative powers.

Gain fame and honor by contributing your favorite dishes to our onegs. Make a soup, a fancy mold, your special family recipes—you name it, as long as it contains no meat.

When you contribute special dishes, your name and dish will be announced and your popularity will rise to undreamed of heights. Your life span will gain 7 years. San Francisco will be a better place to live in for all.

To make arrangements for your contributions, contact either Marilyn (861-6932) or me (441-0276).

—Peter Abinanti, Oneg Committee Chair

Behind the Scenes

In the past months, there was a lot of behind the scenes activity, most of it involved in High Holy Days and other holidays; Frank Hyman, High Holy Day coordinator, reports that Lawney Baldwin received help in ushering from Sam Thal, Bill Schlichter, David Kotch, Chuck Norton, Mel Kirsch, Ruth A., Steve Elman, Barry Rosen, Cathy Sharp and Paul Cohen.

Covering the membership table were David Gass, Elliot Toporek, Barry Siegel, Ron Gertz, Allan Berenstein, Dustin Duncan and Ellen Kugler.

Lenny Brill and Shelley Spiro were assisted in Onegs by Alita Rosenfeld, David Gass, Catherine Wisniewski, Pam Singer, Michael Erceg, Ralph Frischman, Joel Lawson, Rosalinda del Moral, Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Allen Brandstein, Chuck Norton and David Kotch. Beyond the call of duty, Chuck Norton took the tablecloths home for laundering at night. Special thanks also to Enoch Harrison for

handling all of our needs in moving materials back and forth between the Unitarian Center and the shul.

Additional High Holy Day tasks included: Our new Torah needed a white High Holiday mantle, and George Lucas was able to prepare one in time. Alita Rosenfeld updated the yahrzeit list in time for Yizkor, and also prepared new membership applications and High Holiday acknowledgement cards. David Gass arranged for new pledge cards this year, and Eli Weinstein, Don Gordon, Peter Abinanti and David Wasserman have been assisting Marilyn Hertzberg with the acknowledgment of Holiday contributions.

At the end of September we celebrated Succot in our own Succah, with a potluck dinner following. Assisting hosts Allan Gold and David Gass were Steve Elman, Eli Weinstein and Rabbi Kahn.

Our thanks to all.

Martin C. Nowinski
(415) 552-8622

306 Roosevelt Way
San Francisco, CA 94114

Martin Interiors

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Jack Essex
(415) 928-1869

Spotlight on...

Frank Hyman

So many members volunteer their time to our congregation. Many receive a lot of recognition—too many gain just a little. Often what recognition is received is insufficient for the work that's been done. One of these members is Frank Hyman.

Frank has been a member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav since its infancy and enjoys the sense of family he feels here. In 1983, he contributed enormous amounts of time to the Building Campaign and in 1984 helped orchestrate the joyful dedication ceremony of our home. For the past three years, on the last Thursday of every month, Frank assembles a group of 5 or 6 friends from the membership. They spend several hours stuffing the newsletter into the mailing envelopes and generally catching up on the latest grapevine news—and enjoying each other's company. Not satisfied with all of this, he has



taken responsibility, for two years now, for managing the staging of High Holy Day services. This includes coordination of ushers, transportation of prayerbooks, of Torahs, ark etc. It's a huge task that he performs.

Frank has been a Californian since his college days, moving here from Pennsylvania. A student at Johns Hopkins University, majoring in comparative literature, he says he doesn't read much these days—not enough time we imagine. His passions include his very large dog Murph, often seen perched in the passenger seat of one of Frank's four vintage automobiles.

He also loves to travel but we hope he never goes too far away from San Francisco. Volunteers like Frank enrich our synagogue for us and for the whole community.

A Mitzvah for Chanukah

The Bikkur Cholim Committee will sponsor a Chanukah visit to elderly Jews in local nursing homes on Sunday, December 8th. It means taking a couple of hours of your Sunday, and spending it with a person who doesn't get to talk to other Jews very often. It means bringing some cookies, lighting the menorah, and staying to chat for a while. You will come out of the experience with a new way of looking at things, some new information, and perhaps a new friend—a foster bubbe or zayde.

We will have a meeting on Thursday, November 21st, at 7 pm, at the Synagogue, for all those interested in making the visit (if you can't make it on that Sunday, we can discuss other possible times).

Debbie Goodman of Jewish Family and Children's Services will be at the meeting to give us information about the where's, what's and how's of the visit, and is also prepared to discuss any fears or discomfort we may have about visiting nursing homes.

Of course we hope everyone who comes on the visit will want to join the Bikkur Cholim Committee as we go on to other projects, but if you have limited time to give, I can't think of a more judicious way to use it than in the fulfillment of this mitzvah. If you have any questions, either about the Chanukah visit or Bikkur Cholim Committee, please call me at 552-0256, or leave a message at the Synagogue office. —Leslie Bergson, Vice President

Chanukah Exhibition at Jewish Museum

A collection of fine arts and crafts by more than 70 outstanding Jewish artists will be displayed during the second annual "Chanukah Exhibition" at the Jewish Community Museum in San Francisco, November 8 through November 29. The collection will include over 175 objects by such notable American artists as ceramists Richard Deutsch, David Gilhooly, Ann Hodig Nadel and Mayer Shacter, enamelist June Schwarcz, fiber artists Laurie Gross and Carol Sinton, and multi-media artist Ori Sherman.

As an annual forum for contemporary Jewish artists, the Chanukah Exhibition

will intermix Judaica (menorahs, dreidls, ketubahs, tallises and mezzuzahs) with contemporary ceramics, drawings, fiber art, photographs, papercuts, watercolors, oils, woodcuts, sculpture, lithographs and jewelry. All pieces in the show will be available for purchase, with prices ranging from \$30 to \$2000.

"Chanukah Exhibition 85" will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Sundays through Fridays, at the Jewish Community Museum, 121 Steuart Street, San Francisco. For more information, call 543-8880.

From The Treasurer

There has been a gratifying response to date from the High Holidays Appeal for funds, with approximately 300 people sending in contributions. A full list of those who have given and wish to be listed will appear in next month's *Forward*. Thanks to those of you who gave anonymously, as well.

Approximately three-quarters of the people who attended services on the High Holidays have not yet sent in their contributions as this issue went to press. Contributions are still arriving daily, but if your pledge card is still sitting on your desk, this is a reminder that it is not too late. If you have lost your card, a simple envelope addressed to the Congregation will do.

Many members have now brought their dues up to date and are current for 1985-86. They are the mainstay of our financial base. Again, if you have delayed

doing so, you must be current in order to vote at the November 10th Semi-annual Meeting. Bring your check to the meeting if you have not sent it in before.

Thanks to all of you who have helped the Congregation and my job as Treasurer by your timely and generous contributions. —Betty L. Kalis, Treasurer

November Birthdays!

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 4 | Robert Kravitz |
| 6 | Deborah Lieberman |
| 7 | Steve Greenberg |
| 9 | Arthur Reichstadt |
| 9 | Neil Sechan |
| 14 | Jonathan Goldman |
| 23 | Arlene Hoffman |
| 26 | Allan Blumenfeld |
| 29 | Harold Podgur |

NOVEMBER

חשוון - כסלו

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dear Pearl, Desperately seeking latkes. Meet me at Cafe Latke, December 7th, 8:00 p.m. I'll make it worth your while, CPC					17 Cheshvan 1	18 2
19 3	20 4	21 5	22 6	23 7	24 8	25 9
				Ritual Co. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl.2 Newsletter Comm. 7pm, 330 Collingwood	Services 8:15pm	Women's Havurah Havdalah/Potluck 5:30pm, 330 Collingwood
26 10	27 11	28 12	29 13	1 Kislev 14	2 15	3 16
Congregational Meeting, 3pm	Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline		Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am	Rosh Chodesh Social Action Sanctuary Movement 7pm	Services 8:15pm	
4 17	5 18	6 19	7 20	8 21	9 22	10 23
		Brotherhood 7:30pm, 3621-22nd St.		Bikkur Cholim 7pm	Services 8:15pm	
11 24	12 25	13 26	14 27	15 28	16 29	17 30
Lecture: Rabbi Laura Geller 5pm			Newsletter Mailing 7:30pm 11 Grandview Terr.	Thanksgiving	Services 8:15pm	

Ritual Calendar

Friday, November 1

Parshah: Va-Yera, Gen. 18:1-22:44
Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-37
Paul Cohen, Services

Friday, November 8

Parshah: Hayye Sarah,
Gen. 23:1-25:18
Haftarah: I Kings 1:2-31
Eric Keitel, Services

Friday, November 15

Parshah: Toldot, Gen. 25:19-28:9
Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-2:7
Leslie Bergson, Services

Friday, November 22

Parshah: Va-Yetze, Gen. 28:10-32:3
Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10
Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

Friday, November 29

Parshah: Va-Yishlah,
Gen. 32:4-36:43
Haftarah: Hosea 11:7-12:12
Steve Elman, Services

December Preview

Friday, December 6

Parshah: Va-Yeshev, Gen.
37:1-40:23
Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8
Mike Rankin, Services

Letters

The following is a letter Mike Rankin received from the family of Rose Stelowitz which we would like to share with our readers:

Dear Dr. Mike,

L'Shanah Tovah—a peaceful and growing year to the Congregation!

Once again, another year has passed. As usual, the warmth and love of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has added another dimension to my grandmother's life. This year should be the best one yet because, thank God, Grandma Rose can see again! I know the oneg shabbats will be more fun than ever and, just wait until Purim!

Love, Valerie

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Va'ad Report

The Va'ad met as usual on the second Monday of the month (October 14), at 6:30 p.m. in the Oneg Room. In his D'var Torah, Rabbi Yoel Kahn related *Shabbat Bereshit* to the manner in which we process our past and look at our world.

President Don Albert reported that on the shabbat following Rabbi Ben Marcus' death we collected about \$400 which will be contributed in his memory to the Jewish Home.

Treasurer Betty Kalis stated that response to the High Holy Day appeals



The Va'ad taste tests and approves the new deep-dish latkes. Photo by Laurie Davis

has been gratifying and substantial, but that still only about one-third of those attending contributed anything at all. Similarly, dues pledges for 1985-86 have been received from the vast majority of members, but there are a few outstanding '84-85 pledges.

Marilyn Hertzberg's administrator's report included requests that all scheduled meetings and events be reported to the office so that the master calendar can be correctly updated and coordinated; and that people be sure the building is secured at the close of events.

In a UAHC update, Don was pleased to relate that Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President of that organization, will endorse our AIDS resolution in his State of the Union address at the Biennial. Also, Rabbi Kahn noted that he had sent copies of the resolution to some 100 rabbis he knows, and that the response has been positive.

The Chanukah Celebration update was presented by Social Program chair Shirley Liberman. Highlights of the event will include the Traditional Menorah Lighting Ceremony, entertainment, dancing, food,

and much more. Raffle tickets will be distributed with this edition of *The Forward*.

Leslie Bergson and Sam Thal volunteered to help reactivate the Bikkur Cholim Committee and will be exploring ways in which we can meet the crucial need for a "caring community." The Va'ad observed a few moments of silence in memory of Rabbi Ben.

Building Committee chair David Gellman unveiled the committee's revised plans for renovation of the upstairs office area. Assisted by blueprints and drawings prepared by member Ralph Frischman, the Va'ad saw that the plan includes the essentials for office space for Rabbi Kahn and the administrator as well as library facilities. The board unanimously authorized execution of a contract to effectuate this necessary work.

The Bylaws Committee, headed by David Gass, sought and received the board's approval of an amendment to the congregation's bylaws which, if approved at the upcoming semi-annual meeting, would create a new standing Personnel

(Continued on page 11)

Contributions (Continued from page 3)

For the Education Fund—

Sharyn Saslafsky, in memory of Nathan Hyman, Frank Hyman's father

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman, in memory of Albert Stein, David Stein's father

Nanci Stern, with thanks to Garry Koenigsberg and the newsletter editorial board for enabling her book, through the recent review, to reach and educate Jewish children

Leslie Bergson, in honor of Bill Ashley-Dobbin for all the things he does for CSZ

For the AIDS Fund—

Jay Ladin

Ron Lewis, in memory of Charles R. Roberts, Jr.

Steven Cronenwalt

Nanci Stern, to thank Nancy Meyer, Marilyn O'Keeffe, Pat Smith, Leslie Bergson & Garry Koenigsberg for their invaluable assistance with her sermon

For the Social Action Fund—

Richard Inlander, in appreciation of Ron Lezell

Aaron Cooper & Eric Keitel, in memory of Albert Stein, father of David Stein

For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund—

Steve Elman, in appreciation of the wonderful High Holiday services

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of Marion Trentman & Betty Kalis

Richard Inlander, in memory of David Lawrence on his first yahrzeit

Sen Talley

Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman, in memory of Rho Barrett

Irene Ogus, in memory of Nathan Hyman, Frank Hyman's father

In memory of Albert Stein, father of David Stein:

Don Albert

Allan, Matt & Justin Berenstein

Nancy Meyer & Marilyn O'Keeffe

In memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus:

Don Albert

Bob Goldware & Jay Feinstein

Allan, Matt & Justin Berenstein

Jonathan Funk

For the Torah Fund—

Susan Greenspan, in celebration of the birth of new nephew Aron

Don Albert, in honor of Nancy Meyer, who coordinated the Blood Drive, and David Gass & Allan Gold, for hosting our Succot celebration

Jonathan Funk, in honor of Kipp Leyser's birthday

Dr. & Mrs. Monroe Albert, in appreciation for the honor CSZ gave their son, Don

For the Library Fund—

David Stein, with thanks to Garry Koenigsberg

Leslie Bergson, in honor of the High Holiday sermonizers: Irene Ogus, Nanci Stern & Rabbi Kahn

Don Albert, to honor all those who worked so hard to bring us a joyous new year, especially Dan Chesir, Frank Hyman, Shelley Spiro, Bob Berkowitz & Lawney Baldwin

In memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus:

Walter Leiss

Alex Ingersoll & David Stein

For the Building Fund—

Walter Palmer, in solidarity with the congregation of Temple Crescaceacu, Bucharest, Rumania, which was dynamited by the Communist regime in July 1985

Bill Goldstein, in memory of Freida Fine Goldstein

Jonathan Funk, in honor of Pam Schaffer & Judy Schwartz

In memory of Albert Stein, father of David Stein:

Jerry Rosenstein

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold

Rabbi Ben Marcus

Rabbi Ben Marcus, beloved member of the Congregation, died on Wednesday, October 2, 1985/17 Tishrei 5746. Funeral services were held on the following Friday at Sinai Memorial Chapel. He was buried in Seattle.

Following are excerpts from the eulogy given by Rabbi Kahn.

Eulogy for Rabbi Dr. Ben Marcus

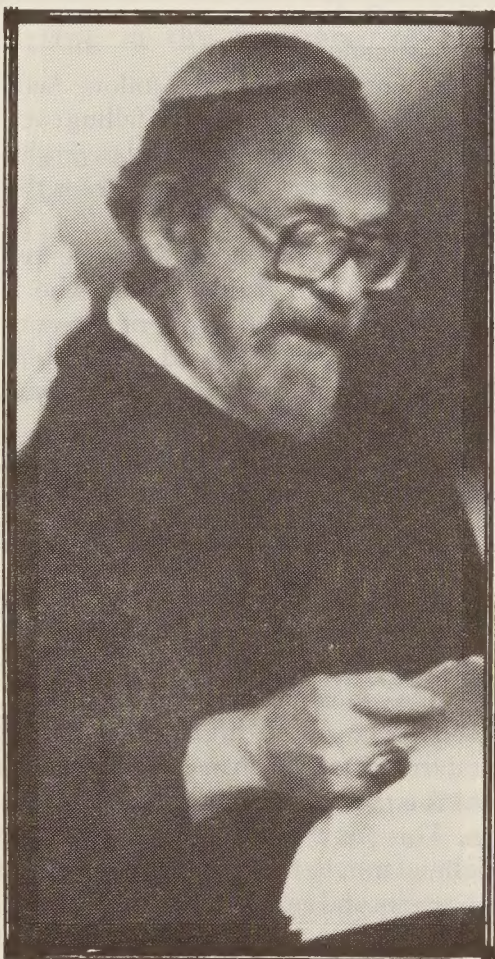
Ben Marcus loved the symphony. In his years in San Francisco, he was a season subscriber. He always had two tickets to the symphony—one for himself and a second for a friend who needed a special night out, or for a person who perhaps would never think to go and listen to a classical music concert, or to a fellow symphony lover who could not afford to attend.

Rabbi Ben, as we so affectionately called him, led a life like a symphony—a dramatic, stirring symphony, a complicated symphony of multiple movements, some slower and calmer, some faster and more active. Most of us only knew one of the movements of the symphony he lived. An examination of the entire composition reveals common themes which are skillfully woven into all the parts, whether we think of Ben Marcus as rabbi, teacher, parent, counselor, colleague or friend.

Ben Marcus had lived in San Francisco since 1978 and here is where most of us have known him. He was born in Seattle in 1924. His early life was economically poor and spiritually rich. He walked long miles in pursuit of education, general and Jewish. He was a self-made man who labored hard to put himself through school. At an early age, he gained faith and perseverance, two qualities that were to endure throughout his life. Ordained rabbi at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, he served the Jewish people in congregations in Houston, Topeka, Philadelphia and Rochester and served for many years as Hillel Director at University of Rhode Island and at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

For the last seven years, Rabbi Ben Marcus has served as the popular and devoted

chaplain of San Francisco's Jewish Home for the Aged. His graduate degree was in the field of pastoral counseling and he applied these skills to his work. Over the years, he developed special and caring relationships with the residents of the Home. As one person familiar with his work explained, he neither talked up nor down but spoke directly to people. Not only did he speak—more importantly, he was able to listen. He listened, he reassured,



he brought faith. From his hospital bed, in the Intensive Care Unit of Mt. Zion a month ago, his first question to me when I came to visit was who would lead Friday evening services at the Home? The Home was his home and the care he gave to it is reciprocated by those of its residents and staff who are here, representing the many others who cared for him so deeply and were not able to attend this morning.

The same caring persona, empathetic listening, and especially respect without

regard to age or status characterized his work with young people. Since his arrival in San Francisco, Rabbi Dr. Marcus has been a beloved teacher in the high school and confirmation programs at Temple Emanu-El. Rabbi Joseph Asher spoke to me of his "uncanny talent for relationship" with young people and "the warm, warm feelings his students had" for him. Year after year, they would become fondly attached to a teacher who, as Rabbi Asher explained, did not simply teach facts, but was a true *moreh derech*, one who guided each individual on the path of his or her own growth. His students honor his memory by their presence here today.

These characteristics of listening, caring, openness and humility were mentioned over and over again by his many friends. His close friend, John Wahl, put it: "I'm not Jewish but he was my rabbi." He was a rabbi to many of us, and a different rabbi to each of us depending on our needs: he was a source of Jewish learning, a counselor in time of need, a celebrant at our life-cycle ceremonies, a wise older person for us to look up to, a trusted colleague. Personally, I deeply appreciated how he went out of his way to welcome me and was always available to share the lessons of his years of experience. Ben Marcus was a rabbi of deep humility. He shunned honors and attention and did not seek special recognition of his role.

Ben was an active member since the first days of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. He courageously came out late in life and looked at the world afresh. We will miss his leadership of the Bikkur Cholim Committee, a task he continued through the period of his illness. We will miss his leadership of our Kiddush and Motzi after Shabbat services. More than this, we will miss the warmth we felt as he greeted and encouraged us, the sincerity of his smile and the strength of his concern. He came out without giving up the central value of his life—his Judaism. He was an observant Jew who strived throughout his life to fulfill the commandments in letter and spirit.

May the memory of this righteous man be for a blessing.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

In my parents' shul, we used to sit for the Sh'ma; at Sha'ar Zahav we stand. In my parents' shul, we did not open the ark for Aleinu; at Sha'ar Zahav, we do.

Did my parents' rabbi make a mistake, or do we?

Nostalgic in Noe Valley

Dear Nostalgic,

Oy! Are you suggesting, maybe, that rabbis make mistakes? Maybe a rabbi "adopts a unique viewpoint," or "creates an unintentional but exciting break with tradition," but not a mistake. Next you'll be suggesting that Aunt Yente can make mistakes. Feh.

In any event, the rabbi in your parents' shul was not making a mistake; neither, let Aunt Yente hurry to tell you, is our congregation. Here is nothing more than a difference in custom; in particular, the difference between Orthodox and Reform tradition. So your parents' shul was right, and Sha'ar Zahav is also right; you of course are also right to worry that nebech they can't both be right, but Aunt Yente is right to tell you that it isn't right to think that only one can be right.

Mazel Tov...

To Jill Rose and Annie Kennedy on the birth of their baby son Joshua Lawrence Kennedy Rose. This happy event took place October 13 with Joshua weighing in at 6 lbs 14 oz. We understand he has auburn-coffee hair and grey blue eyes for the moment.

The baby naming will be at the synagogue on November 22nd. All are welcome.

To get a little specific: the Sh'ma, reform congregations like Sha'ar Zahav stand up for. Because why? Because the Sh'ma is so central to our religion, we emphasize it by standing. But most orthodox shuls recite it seated. Because why? Because the Sh'ma and the V'ohavtoh that follows it make up a biblical reading, and so by sitting and reciting them the congregation is sitting and studying Torah together. The chasidim have a more practical reason for sitting. When we say in the Sh'ma that God is one, so much should we be concentrating on the mystery of the divine unity, that if we tried to stand, we would fall over. So better to sit, cover our eyes, and just concentrate.

(Whichever custom you follow, Aunt Yente recommends you avoid falling over, unless of course you have a relative who just got out of law school and needs the work.)

But if you are like most of Aunt Yente's readers, you still want to know, who is right—the ones who stand, or the ones who sit? But in the Talmud, Hillel (who is always right) says that any posture you take to say the Sh'ma is right; after all, it is written, right in the V'ohavtoh, "Say these words when you sit, and when you walk, when you lie down and when you rise up." You may not know that it was these very words in the V'ohavtoh that gave Aunt Yente the idea for her famous aerobic worship workshop ("And Rise-two-three-four; and Bow-two-three-four").

So maybe you are thinking that you can stand or sit for the Sh'ma, whichever you think is right, no matter what shul you are in. This Aunt Yente is not saying. The Talmud (not to mention common sense) says again and again that more important

than being right is following the custom of the place you are in, for the sake of peace. It is more important that the congregation worship together, rise and sit together, than that you should be right.

This only goes so far, of course. If you abandon all the Cincinnati traditions when you move to San Francisco, it not only leaves you lonely for Cincinnati (stop giggling!) but also robs San Francisco of the chance to enrich its own tradition. Some traditions you might share by helping to lead a service, and explaining; others that are very important to you, you might be able to follow unobtrusively without jarring those around you. A little seichel and mutual respect are what is called for here.

Respect for local custom goes for oneigs as well. Avocado chulent, gefülte tofu, and those strange small, soft tasteless donut-shaped objects are simply customs of the region. The Talmud absolutely prohibits remarks like "You call this a bagel?", or, for that matter, to make any comment about food that begins "Now back in Brooklyn..."

To go back to the second question in your letter, about the Oleinu, you may have guessed by now that the answer is the same as the first. Reform tradition is to open the ark for Oleinu, but most orthodox shuls do not (except in the High Holiday Musaf service). Aunt Yente does not know any particular reason why one opens and one doesn't, other than maybe the reform shuls want to emphasize the prayer (which Aunt Yente is not sure deserves emphasis, but that's another column). Frankly, Aunt Yente wishes we didn't open the ark for Oleinu; not because the opening itself matters to her, but because when the ark is open many people "aim" at it when they bow in the Oleinu. God does not have a condo between the torah scrolls, kinderlach, that we bow to during the Oleinu. Just facing forward and bowing to the Creator who is everywhere shows more respect than bowing towards the mere object in the ark. Your Aunt Yente feels there is still time to make a good local tradition about this.

—Aunt Yente

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**Wish Someone You Care for
a Happy Chanukah
Place a Chanukah Greeting in the Forward**

Happy Chanukah to
Our Rabbi
Thank you for
joining us.
The Congregation

Happy Chanukah Ann
May the miracle of lights
shine for you
throughout the year.
I love you, Eve

Happy
Chanukah
Aunt Yente
from all Your
Secret Admirers

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Your name: _____
Address: _____
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*Rates are \$10.00 for 20 words or less. Please limit your greeting to less than 20 words.

Deadline for Chanukah greetings: Monday, November 10, 1985

Va'ad Report (Continued from page 8)

Committee. Paul Cohen, chair of the Education Committee reported that registration for classes is going well and that plans for a lecture series are well under way, beginning this month with Rabbi Laura Geller. The committee invites suggestions for speakers and topics. Upon motion of Leila Raim, who is helping coordinate Membership Committee activities, eight new members were unanimously approved by the Va'ad.

The Ritual Committee, chaired by Daniel Chesir, would welcome constructive criticism of High Holy Day services. Ron Lezell, chair of Social Action, presented for the board's information a detailed statement of the criteria which the committee will use in evaluating issues and making recommendations for action. Ron also reported that Mervyn Silverman has made a contribution to the synagogue in the amount of the honorarium he received for speaking here.

The Women's Havurah, through chair Allyce Kimerling, reported on the cost to the Congregation of High Holy Day childcare services, and that the Havurah is having an Havdalah potluck on the 9th of this month. The board approved funds for our share of a deposit to reserve Camp Swig for the August 1986 regional meeting of the World Congress of Gay & Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

The Va'ad was pleased to unanimously endorse Susan Unger's exciting proposal for Sha'ar Zahav's Cookbook, which is in the process of being staffed.

We concluded this meeting, arms entwined, with kaddish for Rabbi Ben, and the traditional Oseh Shalom.

Please remember that all members are welcome to attend and participate in your board's meetings. The next meeting is on Monday, November 11, at 6:30 p.m., in the Oneg Room. See you there.

—Richard Inlander, Recorder



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CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

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Officers:

President, Don Albert
Vice President, Leslie Bergson
Treasurer, Betty Kalis
Recorder, Richard Inlander

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Alex Ingersoll
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Shirley Liberman
Irene Ogus
Cheryl Orvis
Mike Rankin
Jerry Rosenstein
Sharyn Saslafsky

Rabbi: Yoel Kahn. Please contact the Synagogue Office to make an appointment.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, Paul Cohen
Finance, by committee
Membership, Bob Berkowitz
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ron Lezell
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, Allyce Kimerling

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Administrator:

Marilyn Hertzberg
The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – check calendar for each month.

Member: Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Brotherhood To Reconvene

Attention men of Sha'ar Zahav... Many men in our Congregation have expressed a desire to see the Brotherhood reactivated, and develop a program calendar for the year. The first step will be a meeting for those who are interested in being part of a Brotherhood Steering Committee. We will discuss the benefits a Brotherhood can have for the members

and our Congregation. In addition we will begin to plan some events.

The planning meeting will take place at the home of Don Albert, 3621 22nd Street (near Church), on Tuesday November 19 at 7:30 pm. If you are interested in being part of this planning process contact Don at 641-5113 or David Gass at 567-7654.

Sibling Notes

Los Angeles: Beth Chayim Chadashim will be celebrating the dedication of the Cele Bernstein Library with a Middle Eastern buffet. Members are being asked to help the library to grow by purchasing books for donation or dedicating a library shelf.

Seattle: Congregation Tikvah Chadashah will be cosponsoring, along with the Jewish Family Service, a workshop forum tentatively titled "They Are Our Children Too" about gay and lesbian Jews. It will focus on parent-child relationships and will present a panel of parents and children of gay and lesbian Jews, as well as speakers from the congregation.

Washington, D.C.: Bet Mishpachah is planning a Family and Friends Shabbat service at which congregants are urged to invite family and friends. Guest speaker Rabbi Mindy Portnoy will be discussing Judaism and homosexuality, a presentation she gave as part of a workshop at last June's Ninth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews.

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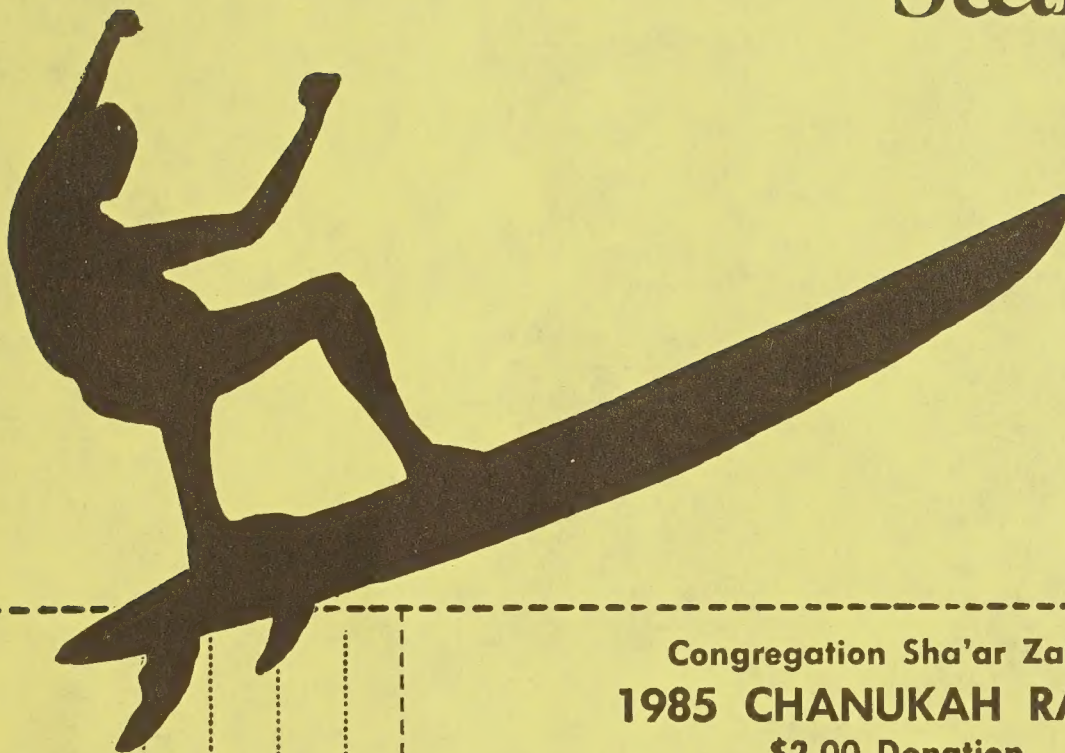
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